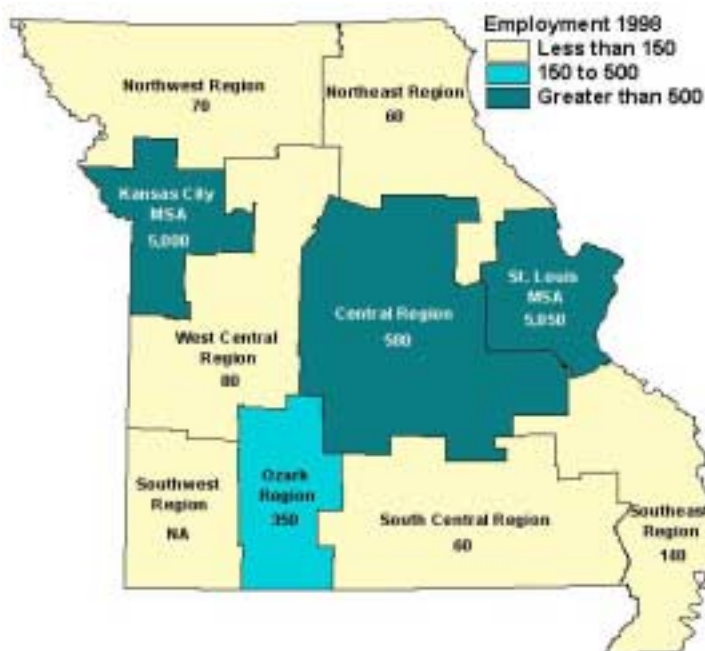


OCCUPATIONAL DESCRIPTION

Systems Analysts analyze science, business, engineering or other data processing problems for application to electronic data processing systems. They analyze user requirements, procedures, and problems to automate or improve existing systems and review computer system capabilities, workflow, and scheduling limitations. They may also analyze or recommend commercially available software. Systems developers or systems architects develop new computer systems (hardware and software), or devise ways to apply existing systems resources to additional operations. Analysts use techniques such as structured analysis, data modeling, information engineering, mathematical model building, sampling, and cost accounting to plan the system. They specify the inputs to be accessed by the system, design the processing steps, and format the output to meet the users' needs. They also may prepare cost-benefit and return-on-investment analyses of proposed systems. Analysts, who do in-depth testing of products, may be referred to as *software quality assurance analysts*. In addition to running tests, these individuals determine if program requirements have been met.



In Missouri there were 10,370 computer systems analysts in 1998, with employment estimated to grow by 63.3% through 2008. On average, there are 720 annual job openings for computer systems analysts.

The majority of systems analysts in Missouri are located in the St. Louis and Kansas City metro areas. St. Louis employed 5,850 systems analysts in 1998, with estimated employment growth of 53.7% through 2008. Kansas City employed 5,000 computer systems analysts in 1998, with estimated employment growth of 65.6% through 2008.

Numerical job growth is fastest in the Kansas City (3,280 jobs) and St. Louis (3,140 jobs) metro areas. Percent job growth is fastest in the Ozark (88.6% growth), Northeast and Southeast (66.7% growth respectively) and Kansas City Metro (65.6% growth) regions.

COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYSTS EMPLOYMENT TRENDS 1998-2008

REGION	EMPLOYMENT		GROWTH	PERCENT CHANGE	ANNUAL OPENINGS
	1998	2008			
Central Region	580	960	380	65.5%	42
Kansas City Metropolitan Area	5,000	8,280	3,280	65.6%	359
Northeast Region	60	100	40	66.7%	4
Northwest Region	70	110	40	57.1%	4
Ozark Region	350	660	310	88.6%	32
South Central Region	60	100	40	66.7%	4
Southeast Region	140	230	90	64.3%	10
Southwest Region	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
St. Louis Metropolitan Area	5,850	8,990	3,140	53.7%	350
West Central Region	80	120	40	50.0%	5
MISSOURI	10,370	16,930	6,560	63.3%	720

Totals are not additive.

Source: MERIC, MO Department of Economic Development

SOC BACKGROUND

Standard Occupational Classifications (SOCs) are used to group all occupations in the economy, including private, public and military occupations. It is used by all Federal agencies that collect occupational data.

SOC CLASSIFICATION

Covers all occupations and work done for pay or profit. Includes uncompensated work in family-operated firms. Occupations are based on work performed, education, training and skills.

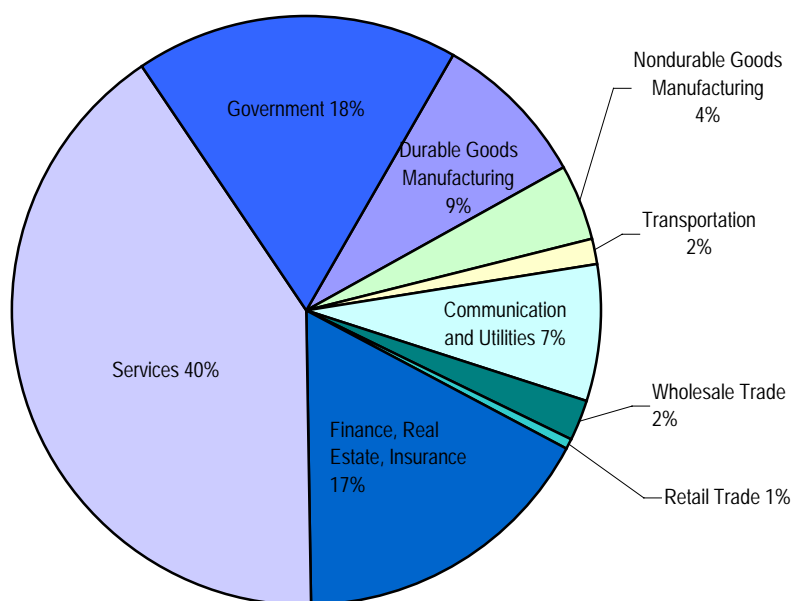
Systems Analysts in Missouri earn slightly more than their counterparts nationally, earning an average of \$55,390 in Missouri compared to \$54,110 nationally. Missouri Systems Analysts also earned relatively higher hourly wages.

Systems Analysts in Missouri are best paid in the St. Louis Metro area, earning \$58,365. Systems Analysts are least paid in the West Central Region, earning \$42,453.

COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYSTS WAGE TRENDS 1998

REGION	HOURLY WAGE	ANNUAL WAGE
Central Region	\$20.46	\$42,557
Kansas City Metropolitan Area	\$25.03	\$52,062
Northeast Region	\$20.50	\$42,640
Northwest Region	\$21.62	\$44,970
Ozark Region	\$20.73	\$43,118
South Central Region	\$26.61	\$55,349
Southeast Region	\$21.51	\$44,741
Southwest Region	NA	NA
St. Louis Metropolitan Area	\$28.06	\$58,365
West Central Region	\$20.41	\$42,453
MISSOURI	\$26.63	\$55,390
UNITED STATES	\$26.02	\$54,110

Source: OES, MO Department of Economic Development



The majority of Computer Systems Analysts in Missouri are employed in the Service industry (40%), Government (18%) and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (17%).

Source: MERIC, MO Department of Economic Development

JOB OUTLOOK FOR COMPUTER SYSTEMS ANALYSTS

Computer systems analysis is expected to be one of the fastest growing occupations through 2008. Employment of computing professionals is expected to increase much faster than average as technology becomes more sophisticated and organizations continue to adopt and integrate these technologies. Growth will be driven by very rapid growth in computer and data processing services, which is projected to be the fastest growing industry in the U.S. economy. The demand for networking to facilitate the sharing of information and the expansion of client/server environments will be major factors in the rising demand for computer systems analysts. Moreover, falling prices of computer hardware and software should continue to induce more businesses to expand computerized operations and integrate new technologies.

Increasingly, more sophisticated and complex technology is being made available to individual users who can design and implement more of their own applications and programs. The result is a growing demand for technical consultants. Likewise, the explosive growth in electronic commerce translates into a need for information technology professionals. Individuals with an advanced degree in computer science, computer engineering, or an MBA with a concentration in information systems should enjoy very favorable employment prospects. College graduates with a bachelor's degree in computer science, computer engineering, information science, or management information systems and have practical experience should enjoy even more favorable prospects for employment.